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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-third session
9 June to 3 July 2003
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-third session

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

(Item 4 (a))

Section 18
Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 16th meeting, on 20 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 18, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/58/6 (Sect. 18)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 18 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme of work under this section. Satisfaction was expressed with the clear presentation of the detailed programme of work, including the results-based budgeting narrative.

4. The view was expressed that the document reflected the priorities identified in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The inclusion of a new subprogramme 8, Development planning and administration, was welcomed.

5. The view was expressed that the priorities and goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action should also be a priority of the entire programme.

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6. The view was also expressed that the programme, especially some expected accomplishments, was very ambitious, but still could be implemented by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). It was pointed out that the scope of some expected accomplishments exceeded those of the medium-term plan. The view was expressed that several expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be refined to reflect better the Millennium Declaration Goals and those of NEPAD. The view was also expressed that some indicators of achievement and performance measures did not seem to relate to the expected accomplishments. It was stated that indicators of achievement should reflect the impact of the activities and not be based only on quantitative measurement.

7. It was noted with appreciation that ECA had reoriented its work programme to reflect the goals of the Millennium Declaration and was integrating planning, budgeting and evaluation measures more effectively into its operations through the establishment of the Office of Planning and Programme Coordination, the Human Resources Management and Finance Division and the Conference and General Services Division. The view was expressed that it should be done within existing resources or with extrabudgetary resources.

8. The view was expressed that more attention should be given to regional cooperation and to coordination with other United Nations entities. It was suggested that a mechanism for evaluation of ECA publications should be established, and that the prospective establishment of an ECA trade development centre should be reflected in the document.

9. Concern was expressed at the continuing high vacancy rate at ECA, which could affect programme implementation.

10. Concern was expressed at the perceived lack of coordination between the regional commissions and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the possible duplication of work.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee reiterated the role of ECA in promoting and facilitating, in partnership with African States, the attainment of the goals set by NEPAD.**

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly suggest that ECA, in future, include proposed programme budget figures in addition to the proposed programme narratives in discussions at the intergovernmental level in ECA.**

13. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 18, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 18A.25, second sentence

After the words "This goal" add a comma and the words "while taking into account the new organization and programme of work of the Commission

on Sustainable Development with regard to the regional implementation forum,".

Table 18A.10

Expected accomplishment (a) should read: "Improved capacity of member States to design, implement and monitor development policies and strategies that address the needs of the poor, taking into account the goals of the Millennium Declaration and the priorities of NEPAD".

Table 18A.12

Expected accomplishment (a) should read: "Increased awareness of policy makers of the interrelationship between and the need for integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development".

Table 18A.12

In indicator of achievement (a), replace the words "the number of citations of" with the words "the number of times reference was made to". In the performance measures, replace the word "citations" with the word "references".

Table 18A.12

Expected accomplishment (c) should read: "Effective incorporation of the interrelated issues of food security, population, environment and human settlements into sustainable development policies".

Table 18A.18

In indicator of achievement (a), replace the words "trained by ECA" with the words "with the assistance of ECA".